

March 24, 2018

Area Chair Report

It's been a busy 3 months as I've begun to settle in to the role as your Area Chair and would like to first take this opportunity to thank the Area for their confidence in me. I would like to also thank the many past and present Area trusted servants who have thus far been very willing to offer words of advice, encouragement or who have just shared their own past experience.

I have had many ideas since beginning my role as Chair (some of which are elaborated upon below) however to be honest, I'm just really happy to have been able to make it this far! It seems every new "idea" is followed by 2 or 3 actual responsibilities!

Since last we met, one of my travels led me to the Area 75 (Southern Wisconsin) Area Assembly. Thanks to Bonnie (our Area Secretary) for joining me. It's quite informative to see how other people do pretty much the same thing in such a different way. The visit was quite impactful and I think there may be an opportunity for us to incorporate a couple of their ideas. One of those ideas was the practice of taking a role call at the beginning of the meeting, not only to identify who is present at the assembly (as an aide to confirming voting results), but also as an opportunity for the assembled to be able to identify the people who hold various positions. As a new comer to that event I was able to see who the various committee chairs and other Area trusted servants were when they answered the call. In the interest of time I've decided not to include that in today's assembly however I do plan on incorporating it in future meetings. Another idea I thought was novel was the issuance of "voting cards" that were given out to the GSR's, DCM's and other voting members during the morning registration. These were laminated 6 x 6 color coated cards (marked GSR or DCM, etc.) which indicated you were a voting member of the assembly (so I didn't get one). Actually I had no idea what they were but when it was time to vote all the eligible voting members held up their card (as opposed to just raising their hand) and a count was taken by non-voting members (Past Delegates in that Area). It seemed to work very well and appeared to be helpful for those that were counting. Again, while not in play today, you may see them at the next event 😊

I also traveled to Indianapolis to attend my first Conference of Delegates Past & Present and could expound on that trip in detail if only I had more paper. Needless to say the experience was a wonderful time. If you thought a room filled with Area trusted servants and GRS's was something to behold you have to witness the same with a room full of regional Delegates (Past and Present). What a truly moving and spiritual experience. Like I said, I could go on and on, but suffice it to say, it was a great experience and the lessons learned at that first conference will stay with me forever.

I've also had the opportunity to participate in two separate service orientation workshops, both in District 65 (our newest Hispanic district). I would like to thank Marilyn F. for the work she's done to put these together and also to thank her for asking me to participate.

Some other items-

- There are new event flyer templates available for Area (or District) events. The template is available on the website. (Thanks Carmela)
- Remember there is money in the PPR for the Area Committee Chairs to maintain and improve their committee displays. Although sometimes a bit time consuming to create, these displays are an excellent opportunity for interested persons to be able and pick up literature or get ideas about topics of interest to them. This is also an excellent example of your job as a committee chair to carry the message of your committee to as many people as possible. There are pictures and ideas for the various committee displays on the GSO website. Wouldn't it be great to see a room full of enthusiastic displays in the future!
- The date for the PGSCW is April 7, at Lord of Life church in LaFox. Please spread the word about this event and/or feel free to stop by and introduce yourself to me (or our Delegate) if you need any additional information on this topic. This presents an opportunity to meet with your home groups and discuss various agenda items. If you're new, you may not be familiar with this event but it's the one single time and place where the groups' collective conscience is discussed with others within our Area and where our Area's collective group conscience is transmitted to the Delegate so he can be as prepared as possible when he attends the General Service Conference in New York next month. I've also been told there's a possibility that Area personnel could be available to help facilitate individual home group discussions, if requested. And, it sounds like a great place for those new displays!
- The Report and Charter committee currently has only one member on it. Please see me if you are interested in serving on this committee. There is work to do.
- There is also an immediate need for additional members to serve on the newly created Technical committee. PLEASE see John C. (Area Web administrator) for details. There are several opportunities for the Area to move into the 21st century and this committee will be leading the charge.
- I have appointed Cheryl V. as the new Service Handbook Custodian. She will be finalizing the punctuation and grammatical corrections needed to the recently approved guidelines and then the Area will print handbooks to be available at the next committee meeting.
- Remember there is a link on our website to take part in the Area Inventory to express your views on several topics (or to express your views on topics that are not presented) 😊
- I am looking for individuals to commit to hosting Alkathons at the upcoming Illinois State Conference in August. The time slots will rotate by Area (every 3 hours) throughout the weekend. All slots are currently open!
- Lastly, we will here bids for the 2019 Big Book conference at the Summer Assembly. Please be prepared to present a bid at that time.

Respectfully submitted-

Chris D.

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